

LESSON



A Child Like Me

SERVICE Jesus sets an example of service for us.

References

Luke 2:39, 40, 51, 52; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 68-71.

Memory Verse

"Then he went down to Nazareth . . . and was obedient" (Luke 2:51, NIV).

Objectives

The children will:

Know that being helpful and obedient means that they are growing as Jesus grew when He was a boy.

Feel a desire to be helpful and obedient.

Respond by doing helpful things around the house and obeying their parents.

The Message



We are like Jesus when we obey and help.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Jesus is a child just like children are today. His parents care for Him. He eats well, plays often, obeys cheerfully, helps His mother around the home, and His father in the carpenter shop. He is growing tall and strong. He learns to serve His family and others. The people in Nazareth see the way He acts and know that He is a child of God.

This is a lesson about service.

We want to be children like Jesus

was. We can learn from Jesus how to obey and help others.

Teacher Enrichment

"As a child, Jesus manifested a peculiar loveliness of disposition. His willing hands were ever ready to serve others. He manifested a patience that nothing could disturb, and a truthfulness that would never sacrifice integrity. In principle firm as a rock, His life revealed the grace of unselfish courtesy" (*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 68, 69).

Program Outline			
LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Options	up to 10	A. <i>My Growing-Up Chart</i> B. <i>When a Mother Calls</i>	growth chart pattern (see p. 140), paper, scissors, crayons, tape (optional), measuring tape, pen or pencil "When a Mother Calls" (<i>Little Voices Praise Him</i> , No. 274)
* Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	See page 13. *Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story	Bible-times costumes, adult and children
		Bible Study	Bible
		Memory Verse	Bible
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	A. <i>We Obey and Help</i> B. <i>So Do I!</i>	bag with various objects (see activity) None
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Good Helper Wheel</i>	Good Helper Wheel patterns (see p.141), heavy paper, scissors, crayons, paper fasteners, magnetic tape

"The life of Jesus was a life in harmony with God. While He was a child, He thought and spoke as a child; but no trace of sin marred the image of God within Him" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 71).

"Thus as He grew in wisdom and stature, Jesus increased in favor with God and man. He drew the sympathy of all hearts by showing Himself capable of sympathizing with all. The atmosphere of hope and courage that surrounded Him made Him a blessing in every home" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 74).

What will the children see in you that will help them become more like Jesus?

Room Decorations

Create an Israelite home by setting up cardboard boxes with windows and doors cut out. Add trees, sand, rocks, etc., as props. Add a small table, clay pot, multicolored cloth on a sleeping mat, carpenter tools or pictures of tools. A bulletin board might say "I Serve at Home" and show pictures of children helping at home. These can be used for Lessons 1-4. The My Growing-Up Charts (readiness activity) made by the children may also be used as part of the room decorations.

Teaching the Lesson

Welcome

Welcome each child by name as they come in the door. Ask them about their week. Listen to last week's memory verse and encourage them to share any experiences from last week's lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.

1

Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. My Growing-Up Chart

Make a growth chart for each child, using the pattern supplied (see p.140). The children may color them. Measure each child, and mark on their chart. These charts may be taped on the classroom walls for room decorations and kept up all year.

Debriefing

Say: **You are growing each year just as Jesus did. We marked on your growth chart how tall you are now. We'll measure you again from time to time to see how much you've grown (optional). Today we'll learn how Jesus obeyed His parents and helped while He was growing up. Do you obey cheerfully like Jesus did? Do you like to help others? What can you do to help others? Today's message is:**

You Need:

- ☐ growth chart pattern (see p. 140)
- ☐ paper
- ☐ scissors
- ☐ crayons
- ☐ tape
- ☐ measuring tape
- ☐ pen or pencil



We are like Jesus when we obey and help.

Say that with me.

B. When a Mother Calls

Ask: **What is your favorite animal? Do you think baby animals obey their parents when they call them? They certainly do! They learn very early how important it is to obey. Their life may depend on it! Let's sing a song and pretend that you are a baby animal and I'm your mother. You can come running to me when I call you.** Sing several different verses of "When a Mother Calls" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 274).

You Need:

- ☐ "When a Mother Calls" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 274)

Debriefing

Say: **Isn't it special the way God helps the little animals to obey? How are you like those little puppies and kittens? You have parents**

who love you and care about you. It is helpful to them when you obey. This week, think of the way animals obey, and especially try to obey your parents quickly. Today's message is:



We are like Jesus when we obey and help.

Say that with me.

PRAYER AND PRAISE



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (as appropriate). Greet visitors and introduce each. Acknowledge birthdays or special events. Review last week's memory verse and allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study.

Suggested Songs

"Jesus Was a Little Child" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 136)

"Jesus Was a Helper" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 295)

"Things Jesus Liked When He Was a Child" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 139)

"A Child Like Me" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 177)

"Obedient" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 270)

Mission

Use a story from *Children's Mission*.

Offering

Say: **Everything we do is a gift to Jesus. When you obey your parents and help them, it is a special offering to God. Your offerings are special to Jesus.**

Prayer

Pray that the children will obey their parents and be helpful to others as Jesus was.

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

2

Bible Lesson**Experiencing the Story****You Need:**

- ☐ Bible-times costume for adult female
- ☐ Bible-times costumes for children (optional)

Have someone dressed as Mary, Jesus' mother, tell the story. When Mary tells what the child Jesus did to help, have the children act it out.

Read or tell the story.

Good morning! My name is Mary. I am Jesus' mother. Did you know that Jesus was once little just like you? Every day I taught Him about God. I told Him Bible stories about Adam and Eve, Noah and the ark, David and Goliath. I taught Him to pray. What do you think Jesus did and said when He prayed? He would kneel down like this [*encourage children to kneel*], and He said something like "Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for loving Me. Amen." We sang songs about God together. Jesus loved to sing. What is your favorite song?

Jesus and I liked to go for nature walks [*encourage children to follow you as you walk around the room*]. We listened to the birds sing, watched beetles climb over logs, and saw spiders spin their webs. We studied the dew on the grass and watched the animals play. We looked at the changing colors of the sky as the sun set. All the time I told Jesus about how God made the world and everything in it. Jesus was happy that God had made such a beautiful and wonderful world.

We didn't have very much money. We lived in a small house. But even though it was small, it was clean. Jesus helped around the house. What kind of things do you think He did? He helped set the table for dinner [*encourage children to pretend they are setting a table*]. He helped dry the dishes [*act it out*]. He made His bed [*act it out*]. He helped me make bread [*act out kneading bread*]. Whatever I asked Him to do, He did it happily.

Jesus also helped His father, Joseph. How do you think Jesus helped His father? Jesus helped him take care of our animals. He fed them and gave them water [*encourage children to act it out*]. Joseph was a carpenter, so Jesus often helped him fix or make things [*act out using a hammer or saw*]. We knew Jesus loved us, because He showed it by helping us and obeying us.

Jesus also helped other people. He was kind to our neighbors and their children. He was helpful when He saw that someone had a need, such as helping the grandmother down the street carry her firewood [*pretend carrying heavy load*] or making a sad child laugh [*smile and laugh*].

Jesus had time to play, too. He played with the other little boys in our neighborhood. They liked to play with Him because He was kind to them. When it was time to come in and I'd call Him, Jesus would always quickly obey and come running.

Every Friday evening we ate a special meal to welcome the Sabbath. He liked my cooking. He knew that the healthy food would help Him grow taller and stronger. Jesus helped light the Sabbath candles for our special meal [*pretend lighting a match and lighting candles*]. Then He listened carefully as Joseph prayed and talked about God.

On Sabbath we took Jesus to church. There He heard the priests read from the books of the Bible. In those days the Bible was written on scrolls. A scroll is a rolled-up piece of paper with words written on it [*pretend to unroll a scroll*]. Jesus listened carefully to the words from the scroll. He learned the words and could say many texts from memory. And He often sang songs with the other people.

Jesus sang songs while He worked. People were glad to pass by our house

because He was always singing. He made them feel happy. But most of all He made us happy because He obeyed and helped.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **What did Jesus do to help at home? To help outside His home? Do you think He was happy to help? Do you think He ever complained about having to obey? How do you act when you are asked to do something? Jesus always obeyed quickly and was always ready to help. Do you want to be like Him? Remember,**



We are like Jesus when we obey and help.

Say that with me.

Bible Study

You Need:

☐ Bible

Open your Bible to Luke 2:39, 40, 51, 52. Point to the text and say: **Here is where**

we find today's story in God's Word, the Bible. Read the verses aloud.

Debriefing

Say: **Jesus grew just as you are growing. He was kind, obedient, loving, and helpful to others because God filled His life. What are some ways you can be like Jesus? Remember our message for today says:**



We are like Jesus when we obey and help.

Say that with me.

Memory Verse

You Need:

☐ Bible

Open your Bible to Luke 2, and point to verse 51. Say: **This is where our memory**

verse is found in the Bible, God's

Word. Read the text aloud. **"Then he went down to Nazareth . . . and was obedient" (Luke 2:51, NIV).**

Use the following to teach the verse:

Then he

Point upward.



went down to Nazareth

Drop hand downward with palm up.



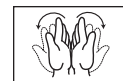
. . . and was obedient.

Hands on forehead; open palms, bring hands forward to waist level.



Luke 2:51

Palms together, then open.



If time permits, use the following finger play.

"When Jesus Was a Boy"

When Jesus was a little boy,

Hold hand out horizontally to show child's height.

He looked a lot like me.

Point to self.

He had two eyes, He had two ears,

Point to eyes, then ears.

And bruises on His knee.

Point to knees.

Sometimes He liked to run and play.

Run in place.

Sometimes He helped make bread.

Pretend to mix bread.

Sometimes He

"Hammer" one

hammered nails with Dad,

fist with the other.

And sang to God above,

Stand, point upward.

Or animals He fed.

Pretend to put pet food on the floor.

Then turning to His family, He thanked them for their love.

Fold arms across chest.

When evening came He knelt to pray,

Kneel together.

—Unknown

3

Applying the Lesson

A. We Obey and Help

You Need:

- bag with various objects (see activity)

Prepare in advance a bag containing the following objects: a toy, pillow, paper cup, stuffed animal, shirt, towel, artificial flower, and soap. Ask for volunteers to take one item from your bag. Ask: **How does this thing remind you of**

some way you can obey and help others? (Toy—pick up toys; pillow—make bed; paper cup—give someone a drink; stuffed animal—feed pets; shirt—put away clothes; towel—fold laundry; artificial flower—cheer someone up; soap—wash hands.)

Debriefing

Ask: **Do you obey your parents quickly and with a smile? Or are you slow and grumpy about it? Which way do you think Jesus obeyed? Which way do you think your parents would like you to obey? Do you ever help without being asked to—you just see something that needs to be done and you do it? That's really nice to surprise your parents by helping without being asked to. Maybe you can try that this week. Remember . . .**



We are like Jesus when we obey and help.

Say that with me.

B. So Do I!

Read the following poem, and do the motions with the children. You read the first line; they respond with the second line, saying "And so do I! And so do I!"

Little Jesus helped His mommy set the table.

Pretend to set plate, cup, fork, at table.

And so do I! And so do I!

Little Jesus slept in a little bed.

Pretend to smooth blanket out on bed.

And so do I! And so do I!

Little Jesus asked God to bless His food.

Fold hands in prayer.

And so do I! And so do I!

Little Jesus liked to walk with His daddy.

Walk in place.

And so do I! And so do I!

Little Jesus went to church on Sabbath.

Point to your church.

And so do I! And so do I!

Little Jesus brought an offering to church.

Pretend to place coins in offering box.

And so do I! And so do I!

I want to be like Jesus.

Point to self, then upward.

And so do I! And so do I!

—Norma June Bell

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Do you think Jesus liked to obey His parents? Do you think He obeyed with a smile or a frown on His face? Do you think Jesus helped at home? How can you be like Jesus in your home? Today's message is:**



We are like Jesus when we obey and help.

Say that with me.

4

Sharing the Lesson

Good Helper Wheel

In advance, make a copy of the Good Helper Wheel patterns, top and bottom (see p. 141), on a heavy piece of paper for each child. Cut along dotted lines to make a triangle-shaped window on the top pattern. On the bottom pattern, have the children color the pictures of ways that children can obey or help others. Fasten together the two wheels in the center with a paper fastener (top wheel on top). Attach a strip of magnetic stick-on tape to the back of the wheel.

Debriefing

Say: **These are pictures of things that you can do to obey your par-**

ents or help others as Jesus did. You can take them home and either have your parents pick one each day or surprise your parents and choose one way to help each day. Which things do you already do? Which of these things have you never done before? Do you think the people you help will be happy? Remember . . .



We are like Jesus when we obey and help.

Say that with me again.

You Need:

- ☐ Good Helper Wheel patterns (see p. 141)
- ☐ heavy paper
- ☐ scissors
- ☐ crayons
- ☐ paper fasteners
- ☐ magnetic stick-on tape

Closing

Say: **This week remember that you are growing up just as Jesus did. You can be obedient and helpful to others just as Jesus was. Let's pray now and ask Him to help you to be like Him.**

STUDENT LESSON

A Child Like Me

References

Luke 2:39, 40, 51, 52; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 68-71

Memory Verse

"Then he went down to Nazareth . . . and was obedient" (Luke 2:51, NIV).

The Message

We are like Jesus when we obey and help.

How do you show someone that you love them? Do you give them lots of hugs? Are you kind to them? Do you give them presents? Do you do what they ask? Do you help them?

Jesus was little just like you. He didn't go to nursery school. He stayed home with His mother, Mary. Every day she taught Him about God. She told Him stories about Adam and Eve, Noah and the ark, David and Goliath. She taught Him to pray. He probably said, "Dear Heavenly Father, Thank You for loving Me. Amen." His mother taught Him songs about God like the ones you learn in Sabbath School.

Jesus and Mary often went for nature walks. They listened to the birds sing. They watched beetles climb over logs and spiders spin their webs. They studied the dew on the grass. They watched the animals play. They looked at the changing colors of the sky as the sun set. As they watched all of this Mary told Jesus that God had made the world and everything in it.

Jesus' family lived in a small house, but it was clean. Jesus helped His mother around the house. He helped set the table for dinner. He helped dry the dishes. He made His bed. He helped Mary make bread. Whatever His mother asked Him to do, He did it cheerfully.

Jesus helped His father take care of their animals. He fed them and gave them water. He helped Joseph fix things. When Jesus was older, He helped Joseph in his carpenter shop.

Jesus was kind to neighbors and their children. He was helpful when He saw that someone had a need, such as helping the grandmother down the street carry her firewood (*pretend carrying heavy load*) or making a sad child laugh (*smile and laugh*).



Jesus had time to play, too. The other boys in His neighborhood liked to play with Him. When it was time to come in and His mother called Him, He came quickly.

Every Friday evening Jesus' family ate a special meal to welcome the Sabbath. Jesus helped light the Sabbath candles for their meal. Then He listened carefully as Joseph prayed and talked about God.

On Sabbath Mary and Joseph took Jesus to church. There He heard the priests read from the books of the Bible. In those days the Bible was written on scrolls. (*Show your child an example of a scroll.*) A scroll is a rolled-up piece of paper with words written on it. Jesus listened carefully to the words from the scroll. He learned the words and could recite them from memory.

Jesus sang songs while He worked. People were glad to pass by His house because He was always singing. He made them feel happy. But most of all He made His family happy by obeying and being helpful.

Do and Say

Sabbath

Each day this week, review the lesson story, and practice the memory verse together:

Then hePoint upward.
went down toDrop hand downward with
Nazarethpalm up.
. . . and wasHands on forehead; open-
obedient.ing palms, bring hands
 forward to waist level.
Luke 2:51Palms together, then open.
 Ask Jesus to help you be like He was as a child.

Sunday

Read the Bible story together. Ask: How did Jesus' mommy and daddy teach Him? How did Jesus help at home? Do you think Jesus always obeyed? Was Jesus happy? Help your child "read" the memory verse from the Bible.

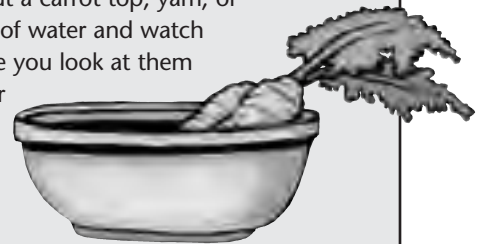
Monday

Show your child Luke 2:39, 40, 51, and 52 in the Bible and read it. Ask: What was Jesus like as a child? Each time your child obeys or helps you this week, give them a coin to put in a cup. At the end of the week, take it to Sabbath School as a special offering. Or have your child use the Good Helper Wheel made in Sabbath School and select a way to help today.



Tuesday

Help your child put a carrot top, yam, or potato in a container of water and watch them grow. Each time you look at them together, remind your child that they are growing more and more like Jesus.



Wednesday

Let your child invite a guest for a meal. Let your child help plan the meal.

Sing "When a Mother Calls," and have your child pretend to be the baby animals that come when called.

Thursday

Have your child help clean up toys before going to bed. Encourage them to say, "I'm helping just like Jesus!" Sing a helping song before prayer.

Friday

Have evening worship by candlelight as Jesus' family did. Light candles at sundown. Talk about what your family did to get ready for Sabbath today. Help your child teach the memory verse to the family.

If your child has been putting coins in a cup, remember to take their offering to Sabbath School tomorrow.